

System Inspector Manual

CHAPTER 1 - INTRODUCTION

Subsurface sewage disposal is a proven method of wastewater treatment in areas without centralized sewers and where site conditions are appropriate. However, systems will not continue to function as intended without proper maintenance, and proper maintenance practices can be advanced only through a well-planned inspection process. Many states throughout the country have instituted comprehensive inspection programs. With that in mind, Title 5 of the State Environmental Code (310 CMR 15.000) now mandates inspections of sewage disposal systems in accordance with 310 CMR 15.300.

In order to implement the inspection program, it is necessary to have properly trained and approved inspectors. To this end, Title 5 requires that the Department of Environmental Protection provide or authorize training for System Inspectors. This manual is designed to accompany and augment the training course that you are now taking. It will also serve as a reference after the course is complete.

Massachusetts Registered Professional Engineers, Massachusetts Registered Sanitarians and Certified Health Officers are automatically approved as System Inspectors and therefore are not required to take this course or the accompanying examination. Board of Health members and agents, Engineers-in-Training (EITs) with a concentration in civil, sanitary or environmental engineering, professional home inspectors, licensed septage haulers, licensed system installers or other individuals with a minimum of one year's demonstrated experience in septic system inspection must take a course conducted or authorized by the Department and pass a written examination with a grade of 75% or higher.

System inspectors play a vital role in the success of any onsite sewage disposal system. The inspection program mandated by Title 5 will help insure that systems are repaired or upgraded as needed which, in turn, will help insure adequate protection of the public health and the environment.

Good luck as you embark on a career as an approved System Inspector.